

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Information Technology & Bio-technology are two important pillars, among many others, for development in 21st Century.

(b) The Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology has been implementing a scheme on Bio-technology based Programmes for Societal Development to benefit SC/ST populations, Women as well as others in rural areas with an objective to develop skills and create self-employment opportunities. The programmes include several field based extension, demonstration and training projects on proven and field tested technologies for rural development. Some examples include: value added floriculture; processing of horticulture produce; cultivation and processing of medicinal and aromatic plants; production and application of vermicompost, biopesticides and biofertilisers; high value mushroom cultivation, aquaculture, poultry and rabbit rearing for wool extraction and transfer of modern agriculture practices. In health sector, projects were implemented for awareness and counselling on genetic disorders and creating awareness on nutrition including traditional food and healthcare. Five Rural Bioresource Complexes have been set up at Karnataka; Haryana; Uttaranchal; Maharashtra and Orissa for social empowerment and economic upliftment of the rural population. The complexes provide improved interventions for value addition to the existing technologies, with clear market linkages and buy-back arrangements. These would benefit approximately 10000 families. All these projects are implemented through Autonomous Institutes, Non-Governmental Organisations, Charitable Trusts, Universities and Government Agencies etc.

(c) The Department of Bio-technology had supported several R&D projects and field demonstrations for rural areas implemented at universities and institutes of Uttarakhand State. However, there are no major programmes/projects submitted by Uttarakhand State Government to the department indicating the future plans of the State.

Agreement for development of science and technology

2060. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and the Association of South East

Asian Nations (ASEAN) have agreed to create a joint fund for development of Science and Technology in the region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that during Indo-ASEAN Technology summit, decided to establish an Indo-Asean Institute for Intellectual Property to help and build human resource capacities and training; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) At the 12th Technology Summit & Technology Platform 2006 organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in association with the Department of Science and Technology, with ASEAN as the Partner, held in New Delhi on 6-7 November, 2006, as a part of the Co-Chairman's Statement on India-ASEAN Science and Technology Cooperation, a proposal was made for creation of a common India-ASEAN S&T Development Fund to consider undertaking collaborative R&D and Technology Development in areas of common interest including biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, agriculture for food security and advance materials.

(c) and (d) Also, as a part of the Co-Chairman's Statement, a proposal for the establishment of an India-ASEAN Institute for intellectual property for building human resource capacities and training to serve the ASEAN region was also made.

Fellowship schemes for women scientists

**2061. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:**

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have instituted fellowship schemes for women scientists under which 200 fellowships are awarded every year to outstanding scientists in basic and applied sciences and application of technology for rural development; and

(b) if so, the details there of *inter alia* indicating the involvement of women scientists of Orissa in this project?